

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW EARTH-SNAKE FROM TRAVAN-
CORE (*RHINOPHIS FERGUSONIANUS*).

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(With a Plate.)

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The genus *Rhinophis*, of which five Ceylonese species are known, was for many years believed to be represented in Southern India by two species, viz., *R. melanogaster*, Gray, and *R. sanguineus*, Beddome. In 1886 Colonel Beddome pointed out that the former had no right to remain in that genus and correctly transferred it to the genus *Silybura*, to which the bulk of Indian Uropeltis belong. Therefore, when in 1890 I revised the list of Indian Snakes, the genus *Rhinophis* was reduced to one continental species, *R. sanguineus*. But shortly after I had the pleasure of adding a second, described in this Journal in 1893, *R. travancoricus*,* of which a specimen from Trivandrum had been sent to me by Mr. H. S. Ferguson. Thanks to the same gentleman, I am now able to describe a third species, nearest allied to the Ceylonese *R. trevelianus*, with which I am happy to connect the name of Mr. Ferguson, to whose exertions we owe several interesting additions to the herpetological fauna of Travancore.

Rhinophis fergusonianus, n. sp.

Snout acutely pointed; rostral very obtusely keeled above, two-fifths the length of the shielded part of the head; frontal a little longer than broad, shorter than the paritals; eye very small, not half as long as the ocular shield, in contact with the third labial. Diameter of body, 40 times in the total length; 17 scales round the middle of the body, 19 behind the head; ventrals only a little larger than the adjacent scales, 184; subcaudals 4, caudal disk a little longer than the shielded part of the head, scarcely visible from below; longitudinally striated, blackish above; sides white, dotted and spotted with black; belly white, with black dots and two series of large black spots partially confluent into a zigzag band; caudal disk black, edged all round with yellow.

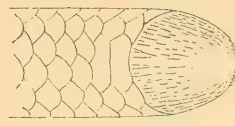
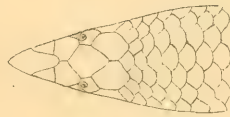
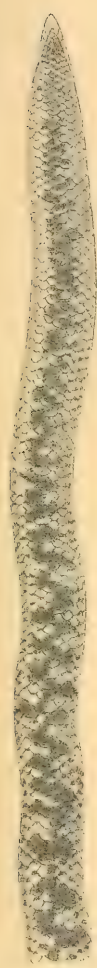
Total length, 320 millim.

A single specimen from the Cardamom hills, collected by Mr. J. S. Sealy.

Differs from *R. trevelianus* in the more slender body, and the longer caudal disk, which does not extend on the lower surface of the tail, and is striated instead of granulate.

* See Vol. VII, page 318.

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RHINOPHIS FERGUSONIANUS.
(*A new Earth-Snake from Travancore.*)

Mintern Bros. del et lith. London.